

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 /081 W

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O R 161030Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 652

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

JXEHD/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1883

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11063

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJ: INDIAN REACTION TO BANGLADESH COUP

1. DURING AUGUST 16 COURTESY CALL ON MEA DEPUTY SECRETARY, AMERICAS DIVISION, J. BARUA, BY NEA/INS OFFICER NACH AND EMBOFF, BARUA INQUIRED ABOUT USG'S READING OF EVENTS IN BANGLADESH. NACH RESPONDED PER GUIDANCE USED FOR DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, AND REQUESTED BARUA'S VIEW.

2. BARUA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY, EMPHASIZING AHMED'S "WELL-KNOWN" POSITIONS. AHMED, HE SAID, HAD SOUGHT A COMPROMISE
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ARRANGEMENT WITH ISLAMABAD IN 1971 AND WOULD NOW

DOUBTLESSLY ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. NACH OBSERVED THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD IN FACT REDUCE TENSIONS IN THE SUB-CONTINENT TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THREE MAJOR COUNTRIES. BARUA AGREED STATING THAT DACCA'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN SHOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN A NEGATIVE POSTURE TOWARD INDIA. "IT MUST NOT HAPPEN THIS WAY" HE EMPHASIZED.

3. BARUA JOKED THAT THE LEFT IN INDIA AND ABROAD WOULD PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO CONNECT THE CIA WITH THE COUP. HE STATED THAT DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK AN INDIAN DIPLOMAT RECENTLY RETURNED FROM DACCA HAD TOLD HIM THAT TALK OF A COUP HAD BEEN UNDERWAY FOR MONTHS. A GROUP OF DISGRUNTLED POLITICIANS AND MILITARY OFFICERS LED BY AHMED AND A "CAPTAIN" (BARUA COULD NOT RECALL THE CAPTAIN'S NAME) RECENTLY PURGED BY MUJIB WAS BEHIND THE PLOTTING. BARUA OBSERVED IN PASSING THAT THE USG WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES.

4. COMMENT: AT AN AUGUST 15 DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH AND PM SECRETARY DHAR SEEMED RELAXED ABOUT BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS. THEY LIMITED THEIR COMMENTS TO JOKING ABOUT HOW "ALL THE OLD CROWD" WAS COMING BACK INTO OFFICE.

5. ADDENDUM: A PRESS SOURCE TOLD US AUGUST 15 THAT GOI CENSORS HAVE PROHIBITED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS.
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